

Commissioner for Patents

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Remarks**Amendments to the Specification:**

Applicants have added a new paragraph to claim priority to United States Patent Nos. 6,238,687 and 5,912,225, thereby eliminating these patents as prior art references. Applicants have submitted an unsigned supplemental declaration, which includes a priority claim to the above listed patents. Applicants expect to forward the signed supplemental declaration to the Examiner promptly.

Applicants have amended the specification to correct some minor typographical errors. Applicants have also amended paragraph 57 to capitalize each letter of "genePORTER" and "Transfast" to indicate that these words are trademarked terms. Applicants identified the generic terminology of these trademarked terms on pages 13-14 of the originally filed specification. No new matter has been added to the specification.

Reconsideration of the patent application is respectfully requested.

Please debit Deposit Account No. 50-0581 for any required fees.

Dated this 5th day of March 2004.

Respectfully submitted,



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